

Kathleen Ryan

pianist/composer

Pianist/composer Kathleen Ryan Clute earned a BA at Duke University, majoring in music and anthropology, and an MA in music at The Claremont Graduate University. Her piano teachers and mentors include Alice Shapiro, Ivan Waldbauer, and Barbara Lister-Sink.

Ryan has released four recordings of her piano compositions. The first, *A Handfull of Quietness* (1993) was featured in the Emmy-winning Iowa Public Television special *The Four Seasons*. *The Rebirth of Light* (2007) garnered glowing reviews for her deep probing of traditional Christmas carols. *Under the Greenwood Tree* was released in August 2009 and is featured on the Internet radio program *Whisperings*. *Drivin'!* (2012) showcases a more upbeat, jazz- and blues-influenced style in Ryan's playing and composing.

In 2006, Ryan was asked by her friend, the concert pianist and educator Keith Porter-Snell, to compose a set of 24 preludes for piano left hand alone for him. She composed the first 12 preludes in 2006 and 2007, titling them *Verbs*. The preludes were premiered by Porter-Snell at the Professional Music Teachers of New Mexico annual conference in November 2007.

The composition of the remaining 12 preludes, now called *Book 2 of Verbs*, was supported by a commission from PMTNM and the Music Teachers National Association. *Book 2* was premiered by Porter-Snell at the PMTNM conference in November 2008.

Ryan won first place in the MTAC Composers Today contest in 2002 and in 2004, and composed the winning hymn tune for the Duke University Waldo Beach Hymnody Competition in 2003.

The unique mix of ingredients influencing Kathleen Ryan's compositions includes folk songs of Ireland and Britain; blues masters Robert Johnson and John Lee Hooker; American composers Gershwin, Hammerstein, and Copland; American shape note hymnody; Mozart and Schubert, of course; and the polyrhythmic coin boxes on the Providence, Rhode Island buses.

Kathleen Ryan Clute is currently at work on a CD of arrangements of hymns and spirituals, as well as composing chamber music for Porter-Snell and others. She maintains a teaching and recording studio at her home near Mountainair, New Mexico.